

# Graduate and Professional Student Government

## Assembly Board Meeting Minutes

University of Pittsburgh, 5604 Posvar Hall

December 6, 2017



### Meeting Summary

- Executive Board reports given, followed by a discussion about communication concerns, issues, and efforts. Discussion about the recent Federal Tax Reform Bill and graduate student's and the University's efforts to increase awareness and education of the Bill.

### Attendance

#### GPSG Executive Board Officers:

- Christopher Staten (President)
- Srilakshmi Kavikkal (VP of Communications)
- Shreyas Vamburkar (VP of Finance)
- Clarissa León (VP of Programming)
- Sarah Brooks (GSA)

#### GPSG Assembly Board Members:

- CSSA
- GOSECA
- TASA
- Arts & Sciences 1
- Arts & Sciences 2
- Biomedical
- Computing & Information
- Dental Medicine
- Education
- Engineering

- Health & Rehab Sciences
- Law
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Pharmacy (PharmD)
- Pharmacy (PhD)
- Public Health
- Social Work

#### Absent:

- VP of Committees
- ANKUR
- ISA
- Arts & Sciences 3
- GSPIA
- Katz (Part-Time)
- Katz (Full-Time)

### 1. Call to Order

- Executive Administrator, Sarah Brooks called the meeting to order at 5:10pm

### 2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve November minutes. *Minutes approved. None opposed.*

### 3. Old Business

- Discussion: AB Meeting from 4:30m – 5:30pm next semester

### 4. Reports

#### • President's Report

- Governmental Relations Committee
  - Nation Call Day – November 29, 2017, 2:00pm – 5:00pm at Panera Bread
  - Call Days – November 29, 2017 at Panera Bread & December 6, 2016 at Hillman Library
  - Tax Reform Awareness Workshop – December 6, 2017, 4:00pm – 5:00pm at the Kurtzman Ballroom, WPU
  - Partnerships with NAGPS, CMU GSA, SAGE Coalition
    - a. Joint letter from U. Penn GAPSA and CMU GSA sent to Governor Wolf
- Tax Reform Workshop:
  - Three efforts discussed by Dr. Urban:
    - a. Increase stipends
    - b. Lower tuition
    - c. Change the wording from “waiver” to “scholarships”
- Tax Reform Information can be found at:

- [www.gpsg.pitt.edu](http://www.gpsg.pitt.edu) ; [www.nagps.org](http://www.nagps.org) ; [www.sagecoalition.net](http://www.sagecoalition.net)
  - Communication Tree – see handout
- Committees' Report
  - Upcoming Bylaws Committee Meeting
- Communications' Report
  - Slack is live! Please join and start communicating
    - Disseminate GPSG information in your respective groups
    - Let other students know what your school has going on that is open to other schools
    - Please provide feedback on its effectiveness
  - Follow PittGPSG on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter & post to PittGPSG on Facebook Group
- Finance's Report
  - GPSG Financial Report
    - GPSG and GSA's expenses
    - November Travel Grants
    - Supplemental Funding
- Programming's Report
  - Fall Formal was a blast; although we did not reach our ticket sales goal; 270 vs 390
  - Communication; dissemination could have been improved
    - Send pdf files for all documents to be shared
  - Food needs to be spaced out evenly
    - Want more than one wine option
    - Food – just appetizers – need to say when food will run out
  - Pitt Arts Events Update:
    - Cancelled The Old Man & the Old Moon
    - Holiday Pops event now combined with Undergraduate students
- Executive Administrator's Report
  - Please note that the Conference Room, WPU 822 is open to AB representatives and GSGs to use. If you would like to book the room, please email [gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:gpsg@pitt.edu)
  - Send your school's or organizations reports to [gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:gpsg@pitt.edu) when the two-week reminder email is sent.
- Assembly Board Member Reports
  - *Arts & Sciences*
    - No report
  - *Biomedical*
    - No report
  - *Dental Medicine*
    - No report
  - *Education*
    - No report
  - *Engineering*
    - No report
  - *GSPIA*
    - No report
  - *School of Computing & Information*
    - No report
  - *Katz (Full Time)*
    - No report
  - *Katz (Part Time)*
    - No report
  - *Law*
    - No report

- *Medicine*
  - No report
- *Nursing*
  - No report
- *Pharmacy (PharmD)*
  - No report
- *Pharmacy (PhD)*
  - No report
- *Public Health*
  - No report
- *School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences*
  - No report
- *Social Work*
  - No report
- *ANKUR*
  - No report
- *CSSA*
  - No report
- *ISA*
  - No report
- *GOSECA*
  - No report
- *TASA*
  - No report

## 5. Committee Reports

- See full reports on website ([www.gpsg.pitt.edu](http://www.gpsg.pitt.edu))

## 6. New Business

- Discussion: Tax Reform Bill
  - Discussed the solutions proposed at Tax Reform Bill Awareness Workshop
  - Must continue our advocating efforts after the semester ends
    - Contacting representatives
    - Speaking with University Administration
      - a. Important to continue a dialogue with Dr. Nathan Urban concerning graduate student concern. Email [VPGraduate-Urban@pitt.edu](mailto:VPGraduate-Urban@pitt.edu) with any concerns.
  - Discussed focusing efforts on developing and educating graduate and professional students into well-informed electorates.
  - If interested in joining, or if you know someone interested in joining the GPSG Government Relations Committee, please email [president.gpsg@pitt.edu](mailto:president.gpsg@pitt.edu).
- Discussion: Increasing AB and GPSG EB communication
  - Discussed concerns and potential solutions:
    - Priority listing of communication with AB representatives
    - Mention deadlines clearly in emails
    - Send information out earlier
    - Some GSGs can only email students who sign-up, others can send information to a school administrator to disseminate to students.
    - Potential to add school admins to Assembly Board email list

## 7. Announcements

- Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in Posvar Hall 5604**

Meeting Adjourned at 6:15pm